What is Claimed:

1. A method of manufacturing a combustion chamber of a water heater, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a skirt;

spot welding an edge portion of a plate to the skirt; and

circumferentially welding the edge portion of the plate to the skirt, thereby forming a seal between the plate and the skirt.

2. The method recited in claim 1, said forming step comprising:

rolling sheet metal to position edges thereof proximal one another; and

welding the edges to form a continuous skirt.

3. The method recited in claim 1, said forming step comprising circumferentially expanding a portion of the skirt.

4. The method recited in claim 3, said spot welding step comprising welding the edge portion of the plate to the expanded portion of the skirt.

5. The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of welding a burner support to the plate.

6. The method recited in claim 5, wherein said step of welding the burner support to the plate comprises welding a bracket to the plate.

7. The method recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of configuring the plate for said step of welding the burner support to the plate.

8. The method recited in claim 7, wherein said step of configuring the plate comprises substantially closing openings on the plate where the burner support is to be welded to the plate.

9. The method recited in claim 1, wherein said spot welding step comprises spot welding an edge portion of the plate to an inner surface of the skirt.

10. The method recited in claim 9, wherein said circumferential welding step comprises circumferentially welding the edge portion of the plate to the inner surface of the skirt.

11. The method recited in claim 1, wherein said forming step comprises forming a substantially cylindrical skirt.

12. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the plate is substantially round, said method further comprising the step of press fitting the plate into the skirt.

13. The method recited in claim 12, said press fitting step comprising creating a seal between the edge portion of the plate and an inner surface of the skirt.

14. The method recited in claim 1, wherein said spot welding step comprises welding the edge portion of the plate to an inner surface of the skirt.

15. The method recited in claim 1, wherein said circumferential welding step comprises forming a secondary seal between the plate and an inner surface of the skirt.

16. A method of manufacturing a combustion chamber of a water heater, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a skirt;

circumferentially expanding a portion of the skirt; and

welding a plate to the expanded portion of the skirt.

17. The method recited in claim 16, wherein said circumferentially expanding step comprises forming a shoulder in the skirt adjacent which an edge portion of the plate can be positioned.

18. The method recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of positioning the edge portion of the plate adjacent the shoulder formed in the skirt.

19. The method recited in claim 16, said welding step comprising spot welding an edge portion of the plate to the skirt.

20. The method recited in claim 16, said welding step comprising circumferentially welding the edge portion of the plate to the skirt, thereby forming a seal between the plate and the skirt.

21. A method of manufacturing a portion of a combustion chamber for use in a water heater, said method comprising the steps of:

welding a plate having openings to a skirt; and

welding a burner support to the plate at a location substantially devoid of the openings.

22. The method recited in claim 21, said step of welding a plate comprising welding a plate having louvers to the skirt.

23. The method recited in claim 21, said step of welding a burner support to the plate comprising welding a bracket to the plate.

24. The method recited in claim 21, wherein the openings are defined by louvers, said step of welding the burner support further comprising

welding the burner support to the plate at a location where the louvers are substantially closed.

25. The method recited in claim 21, further comprising at least partially closing the louvers at the location.

26. The method recited in claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

forming a skirt; and

welding an edge portion of the plate to the skirt.

27. The method recited in claim 26, said welding step further comprising:

spot welding an edge portion of the plate to the skirt; and

circumferentially welding the edge portion of the plate to the skirt, thereby forming a seal between the plate and the skirt at least partially closing the louvers at the location.

28. The method recited in claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

circumferentially expanding a portion of the skirt; and

welding the plate to the expanded portion of the skirt.